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HOUSE BILL 655

**48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007**

INTRODUCED BY

Janice E. Arnold-Jones

AN ACT

RELATING TO LIBRARIES; ENACTING THE RURAL LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT ACT; PROVIDING POWERS AND DUTIES; CREATING A FUND; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. SHORT TITLE.--This act may be cited as the "Rural Library Development Act".

Section 2. DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Rural Library Development Act:

A. "division" means the library division of the cultural affairs department; and

B. "rural library" means a public library in a municipality or unincorporated village or community with a population of less than fifteen thousand as determined by the latest federal decennial census.

1 Section 3. RURAL LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.--

2 A. The division shall establish a rural library  
3 development program that provides grants-in-aid to:

4 (1) improve existing rural libraries'  
5 collections and services and provide resources to plan and  
6 establish new rural libraries;

7 (2) improve access to library materials and  
8 technology for rural citizens;

9 (3) connect rural libraries to communications  
10 networks, such as wire New Mexico and national lambdarail;

11 (4) provide professional development to  
12 librarians and other library staff in rural libraries; and

13 (5) provide support for rural libraries to  
14 participate in the New Mexico group catalog and the New Mexico  
15 library portal, a statewide resource-sharing network.

16 B. Municipalities and counties may apply for rural  
17 library development grants-in-aid to improve or connect a rural  
18 library and provide training and supplemental salaries not to  
19 exceed forty percent of compensation for a period not to exceed  
20 three years to rural librarians. A grant-in-aid may be awarded  
21 for qualifying rural libraries based on an application process  
22 developed by the division.

23 C. The division shall establish by rule the  
24 application and grant process to distribute available money  
25 equitably across the state. Priority shall be given to rural

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1 libraries that are:

2 (1) located more than twenty miles from a  
3 municipality with a population of greater than fifty thousand  
4 as determined by the latest federal decennial census; and

5 (2) being connected to wire New Mexico and  
6 national lambdarail.

7 Section 4. RURAL LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT FUND--CREATED--  
8 PURPOSE.--The "rural library development fund" is created as a  
9 nonreverting fund in the state treasury. The fund consists of  
10 appropriations; other revenue credited to the fund; gifts,  
11 grants and donations to the fund; and income from investment of  
12 the fund. The fund shall be administered by the division, and  
13 money in the fund is appropriated to the division to carry out  
14 the provisions of the Rural Library Development Act. No more  
15 than five percent of the fund each year may be used for  
16 administration. Disbursements from the fund shall be by  
17 warrant of the secretary of finance and administration pursuant  
18 to vouchers signed by the state librarian or the state  
19 librarian's authorized representative.

20 Section 5. APPROPRIATION.--Two million dollars  
21 (\$2,000,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the rural  
22 library development fund for expenditure in fiscal year 2007  
23 and subsequent fiscal years to provide rural library  
24 development grants-in-aid. Any unexpended or unencumbered  
25 balance remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert

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to the general fund.

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